

RETIREMENT

DRAWER 2 LINCOLN CHILDREN - ROBERT

71.2009 085 04497



The Lincoln Children

Robert Todd Lincoln

Retirement

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

ROBERT T. LINCOLN

LAST OF FAMILY

Only Living Son of Martyred President Now a Citizen of Columbia—Last in Direct Line.

In his seventy-seventh year Robert Todd Lincoln, is now once more a citizen of the District of Columbia. Immediately after he retired from active professional life, when he was identified with that great village, Chicago, he went back to Washington to live in the unpretentious house at 1775 N street, but he soon removed to the old Laird home at 3014 N street, a fine old place, long known as the social center, which occupies an imposing site on the high ground of Georgetown and affording a magnificent view down the Potomac and across the river in Arlington.

Last of the name in a direct line, for his daughter is married and his only son died from typhoid fever in England, Mr. Lincoln is living a retired life befitting his advanced years, but he is by no means to be regarded as a recluse. He still preserves many of his former professional connections with large corporate bodies and is an active, if not a strict, businessman. He reads and studies continuously, keeps two stenographers in copy and is well versed in current national and international affairs.

Robert Todd Lincoln was born in Springfield, Ill., August 1, 1843. He was educated at Illinois State University and at Phillips Exeter Academy. He afterwards attended the Harvard Law School, but interrupted his studies to serve in the civil war, where he was a captain on the staff of Gen. Grant. At the close of the war he completed his course and was admitted to the Illinois State Bar in 1867. He took up his practice in Chicago and soon after married Mary Harlan, the daughter of Senator James Harlan of Iowa. In those early days he took an active part in the conventions of the Republican party, but was never at any time a candidate for any public office. Nevertheless his intellect and personal qualities marked him for service, and public office sought him.

He was chosen for the Cabinet by both President Garfield and ~~Al~~ ¹⁸⁸⁹⁻¹⁸⁹³ President ~~Al~~ ^{EI} for the position of Secretary of State and in that office displayed an administrative ability. As States Minister to Great Britain (1889-1893) he served his ~~country~~ ^{EI} well and commanded the ~~respect~~ ^{of} and respect of British ~~of~~ ^{the} ~~country~~ ^{EI}. Just before the McKinley ¹⁸⁹³ ~~country~~ ^{EI} into print with the state ¹⁸⁹³ ~~country~~ ^{EI} "Bob" Lincoln was the ¹⁸⁹³ ~~country~~ ^{EI} publisher for President, that ¹⁸⁹³ ~~country~~ ^{EI} only man who could ¹⁸⁹³ ~~country~~ ^{EI} and unite it as it ¹⁸⁹³ ~~country~~ ^{EI} Lincoln not only ¹⁸⁹³ ~~country~~ ^{EI} ¹⁸⁹³ ~~country~~ ^{EI} propaganda but repudiated ¹⁸⁹³ ~~country~~ ^{EI} Robert Lincoln, as his ¹⁸⁹³ ~~country~~ ^{EI}

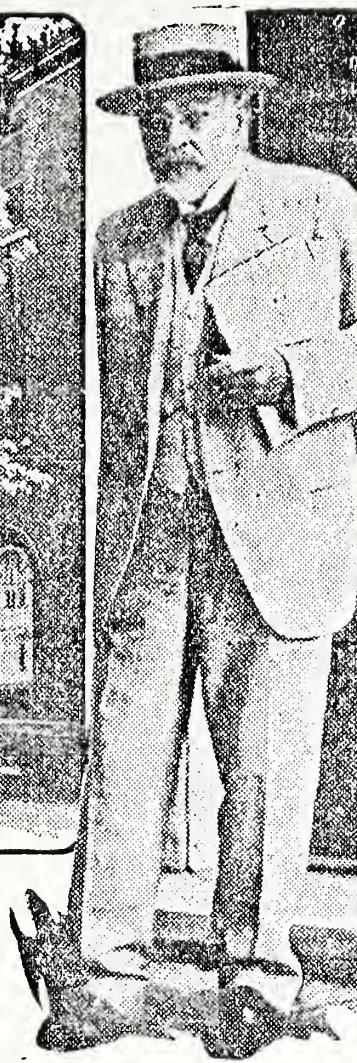
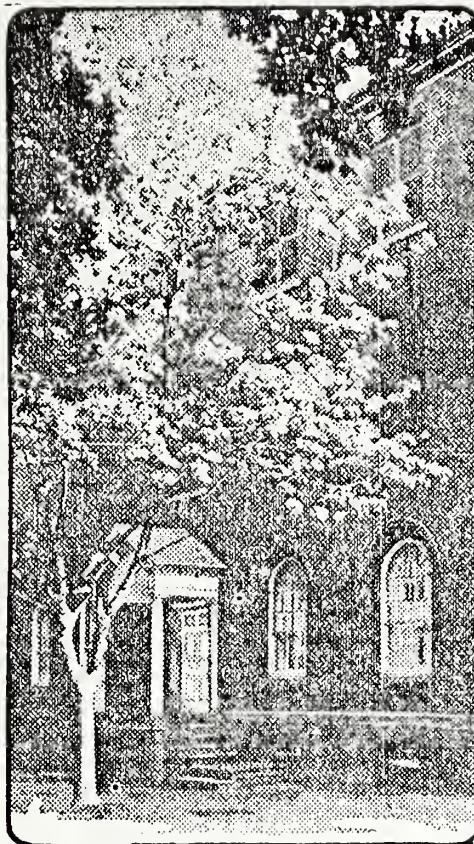
fore him, applied himself very diligently to the study of law and became a man of outstanding ability in his profession. Unlike his father, however, he specialized in corporation law and the protection of syndicated interests rather than individual suits. He was special counsel for the Pullman Palace Car Company and after the death of George W. Pullman became president of the company, which position he resigned in 1911 for that of chairman of the board of directors. He was vice-president of the Commonwealth-Edison Company and director of the Chicago Telephone Company. He has for years had an office in the Pullman building in Chicago, in which city he necessarily lived for years and afterward spent much of his time. He is a member of the Golf and University clubs of Chicago and of the Union University and Harvard clubs of New York.

There is little physical resemblance between the son and Abraham Lincoln. Robert takes after his mother's family, the Todds. He is short and plump, and even as a young man moved rather ponderously. His complexion is like that of his father, dark and swarthy, and his voice rich, deep and sonorous, is another splendid paternal inheritance. Those living who heard the Emancipator in one or other of his great speeches have marked his likeness in volume, intonation and timbre as a thing remarkable.

On the subject of his father the son is naturally not only deeply interested but jealous. The mention of it is sufficient to draw him out of his natural and acquired reserve. He will not permit even the slightest misrepresentation of his great father's name and fame, however innocently or ignorantly it may be made. And of pictures and statues commemorative of Lincoln the son is equally critical. He was displeased with the Bernard statue of Lincoln and therefore took comfort in its rejection by London. The Saint Gaudens statue of Lincoln in Lincoln Park, Chicago, has the son's endorsement as an excellent likeness of his father and a good work of art.

"Tad," as he was lovingly called when a child playing about his Springfield home, is a man of quiet manners, always well dressed, with gray brown eyes sparkling with intellect and a closely trimmed beard, now almost white of the Vandyke type. He has distinctly disliked publicity of any kind, and the younger generation hardly know of his long and proud record of public service, much less of the nature of the man. But he has many acquaintances, especially in Washington, and many friends to whom he is always accessible. While in his new home Mr. Lincoln will be able to hold himself removed as is his desire, from the social and political hubbub of the capital; he will there, as he has always done, exercise a simple but retiring hospitality.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S SON IS "HERMIT OF GEORGETOWN"



By NEA Service.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 6.—This story is about the hermit of Georgetown.

Georgetown is the oldest, quaintest quarter of Washington. The atmosphere of colonial days still hangs over its antique red brick buildings and shaded brick sidewalks.

Georgetown's hermit is Robert Todd Lincoln. He is the son of Abraham Lincoln.

Few Georgetown people have seen Lincoln. Those who have, describe him as a bent old man.

"Mr. Lincoln ain't home," a Negro gardener tells you. "He's at his country house in New Hampshire. But he never sees no one, anyway, even when he's here."

Lincoln's Story

If Lincoln would talk to you, he would tell this story:

"I was born at Springfield, Ill., Aug. 1, 1843, while my father was beginning his fight to the top in state politics. That makes me 78 now.

"In 1859 I was graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana. While father was at the White House, I was beginning my course at Harvard.

"Then the war broke out. I left

ROBERT TODD LINCOLN AND HIS HOME IN GEORGETOWN.

school to serve as a captain on General Grant's staff.

"I was discharged in 1866—and you know what happened to my father then. In my grief I went back to my old home in Illinois.

"I was admitted to the bar in Chicago in 1867 and was married the following year.

"Politics? I was a presidential elector, served as secretary of war under Garfield and Arthur and later was minister to Great Britain.

"My fortune is based on my connection as special counsel for and later as president of several big business concerns in Chicago and elsewhere."

And now—Lincoln has settled down in the very shadow of his life's greatest tragedy. And his wife shares his seclusion.

FEW KNOW LINCOLN'S SON

DESCENDANT OF THE EMANCIPATOR HAS ALWAYS SHUNNED PUBLICITY.

only Living Child of Abe Lincoln is Now Nearly 80 Years Old, and He Lives Quietly and Almost Unknown in Washington.

Keystone City 2-11-22

Aaron Hardy via in Leslie's Weekly.

Robert Todd Lincoln, the son of the Emancipator, still lives. Some say he is the last survivor in the male line of the family from which Abraham Lincoln sprung. He and his two daughters and three granddaughters are the only living descendants of the great American. Of all the cases of son and great father this is probably the most singular.

In Washington, where he now lives, Robert Todd Lincoln, now approaching his eightieth year, is seen frequently driving through the parks or poring over old manuscripts and rare books in the library of Congress. But he is rarely recognized. It is doubtful if more than a hundred residents of Washington know him by sight. His name rarely appears in the newspapers, never in connection with public or social activities. The old Georgetown mansion, where he and his family make their home, is one of the most picturesque in the national capital; it was built in the eighteenth century by a wealthy Scotch shipmaster. The Lincolns live in dignified elegance. But a society editress of long experience

Accept my appreciation for the thought," he stated when the suggestion was conveyed to him, "but under no circumstances must you carry it out. We of course shall attend, but only on a par with the general public. We prefer that no notice whatever be taken of us."

Thus it would seem that Robert Todd Lincoln will maintain to the end the modesty of attitude toward his father's fame that has characterized his long life. There isn't of record a single utterance ever penned or spoken publicly by him on the subject of Abraham Lincoln. He has never been "interviewed" on the subject—or many other subjects. For long he has been regarded as the most inaccessible of prominent men; nor aside from his name Robert Todd Lincoln has played a conspicuous part in the nation's life.

He was born in Springfield, Ill., in 1843, and graduated from Harvard in 1864. He left the Harvard law school to enter the army, regarding which step there survives one of the most characteristic of his father's letters. It was written to General Grant in January, 1865, and is as follows:

PRESENT AT FATHER'S DEATH.

"Please read and answer this letter just as though I was not President, but only a friend. My son, now in his twenty-second year, having graduated at Harvard, wishes to see something of the war before it ends. I do not wish to put him in the ranks, not yet to give him a commission, to which those who have served long are better entitled and better qualified to hold. Could he, without embarrassment to you or detriment to the service, go into your military family with some nominal rank, I, and not the public, furnishing his necessary means? If not, say so without hesitation, because I am as anxious and as deeply interested that you shall not be encumbered as you can be yourself."

Grant promptly made the boy a member of his staff with the rank of captain. He accompanied the general to Washington on that memorable April 14, following, and thus was present at his father's death the next morning. He is only one of two living persons who witnessed that sad event; it is said that he has never again put foot in the old dwelling across from Ford's theater where it occurred. Incidentally, he was present also at the death of President Garfield.

The young man was showered with opportunities for capitalizing his name. He spurned all of them. He settled in Chicago, buried himself in the study of the law, and began to practice in 1867, turning down all temptations to enter politics.

MIGHT HAVE RUN FOR PRESIDENT.

In his early days he took occasional but always quiet part in national politics. His first and among his few political speeches was for Blaine in 1876. He supported the third term movement for Grant in 1880, and Garfield, who was elected, offered him the post of secretary of war. He took it and was the only one of Garfield's cabinet members who was retained by Arthur.

In 1884 a movement was started to make Robert Todd Lincoln the Republican candidate for President. He blocked it on the plea that his loyalty belonged to President Arthur, who wanted the nomination. Later, over his protest, he was appointed minister to Great Britain by President Harrison. That was his last public service in office. Following it he became special counsel for the Pullman Company, and later succeeded George M. Pullman as president. He is now very wealthy.

Some say that it was Henry Watterson's lecture on "Abraham Lincoln" which caused Robert Lincoln to carry his resolve to avoid any seeming to take advantage of his father's name to the

point of an almost inexplicable avoidance of all public demonstrations of whatever nature having to do with his renowned father.

He went to hear Watterson at the first delivery of the lecture, about 1880, in Chicago. It is said that he didn't like the emphasis put by Watterson on Lincoln's lowly origin, which he took as something of an undeserved reflection upon the family strains that entered into his father's and his own making. He couldn't contradict the tendency on the part of most speakers and many writers to exaggerate facts about the Lincoln and Hanks families, for his act would have been misconstrued. So, it is said, he decided to avoid being placed in a position of seeming to give approval to anything any fervid orator might say about them.

HAS WRITTEN NO MEMOIR.

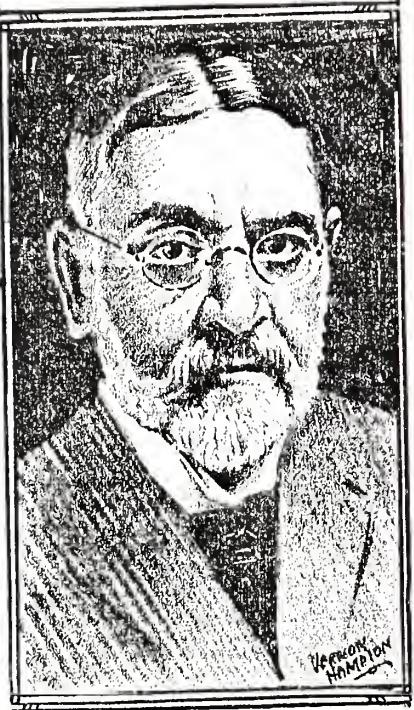
A few years ago he modified his rule of self-imposed silence to the extent of protesting against the Barnard statue, which it was intended to set up in London. He made no noisy protest, merely going to the late Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, British ambassador at Washington, and stating that he hoped the statue—which he contends does not properly present his father—should not receive the approval of dedication by the British government. His protest led to the substitution in London of a replica of St. Gaudens's noble conception. Barnard's statue has since been set up in Manchester.

Frequently he has written to some artist, writer or orator, to express his personal appreciation for some tribute to his father. But though some "Lives" of Abraham Lincoln contain statements which he disputes, he has never entered into any controversy as to the facts of his father's life and career. It is said that he does not at all like Lord Charnworth's biography, which has had much to do with shaping the European conception of his father. So far as known he has never seen Drinker's play, which is taken largely from the Charnworth biography.

It has been supposed that the only one of Lincoln's three children to reach maturity—the second, "Willie," died while a child in the White House and the youngest, "Tad," the father's favorite, died on reaching manhood—would probably leave for posthumous publication the valuable memoir which he alone could write. But personal friends of Robert Lincoln say they have no reason to believe that he has prepared or will prepare each a memoir.

But it is known that he has collected much material having to do with his father's life and career.

Many years ago when he was asked to give the Lincoln dwelling at Springfield to the state of Illinois he hesitated because of his fear that it would be taken as a play for political favor. But when the legislature requested the gift he promptly deeded the old family home to the state, which now preserves it.



ROBERT TODD LINCOLN, THE SILENT SON OF THE GREAT EMANCIPATOR.

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MOST INACCESSIBLE OF MEN.

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SON OF LINCOLN HAS NO MESSAGE TO U.S. PUBLIC

1922

Washington, D. C., Feb. 12.—[Special.]—Robert Todd Lincoln, son of President Lincoln, former cabinet member, and only living relative of the "Great Emancipator," is spending his days quietly in this city, living in Georgetown, just across the street from the house occupied by Secretary of War Baker.

Mr. Lincoln, although 78 years of age, does not show his years, and is quite active, attending to his personal affairs each day and visiting among friends he has known for many years.

When correspondents called at his residence and asked Mr. Lincoln if he had any message to send to the American people on the anniversary of his father's birthday, he replied:

"There is absolutely nothing I have to tell the American people. I have done enough talking during my lifetime, and I do not think it would be proper for me to say anything now. I am sure no one is interested in my views concerning the questions confronting the nation at this time. I have taken no interest in public questions for a number of years."

Few Know Abe Lincoln's Son

Descendant of Great Emancipator Has Always Shunned Publicity.

JUN 2 1911

Robert Todd Lincoln, the son of the Emancipator, still lives. Some say he is the last survivor in the male line of the family from which Abraham Lincoln sprang. He and his two daughters and three granddaughters are the only living descendants of the great American. Of all the cases of son and great father this is probably the most singular, writes Aaron Hardy Ulm in *Leslie's Weekly*.

In Washington, where he now lives, Robert Todd Lincoln, now approaching his eightieth year, is seen frequently driving through the parks or poring over old manuscripts and rare books in the library of Congress. But he is rarely recognized. It is doubtful if more than a hundred residents of Washington know him by sight. His name rarely appears in the newspapers, never in connection with public or social activities. The old Georgetown mansion, where he and his family make their home, is one of the most picturesque in the national capital, it was built in the eighteenth century by a wealthy Scotch shipmaster. The Lincolns live in dignified elegance. But a society editress of long experience in Washington was unable to supply the names of the daughters and granddaughters. Another did not even recall that the Lincolns now make Washington their home.

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V LINCOLN'S SILENT SON. V

Few at Capital Recognize Robert Todd, Scion of Illustrious Father.

Once there was a mid-western "circuit-riding" lawyer who resolved to provide for his eldest son something that circumstances had denied the father. It was a good school and college education. At sixteen the boy was sent to a school in the East for preparation to enter Harvard. That was in 1859.

Early in the following year the father greatly desired to visit the boy, Aaron Hardy Ulm writes in Leslie's. But he hesitated on account of the expense of the trip, for the father's means were not large. Then there came to the country lawyer an offer of a fee of \$200 to make one speech in a lyceum course conducted by a Brooklyn, N. Y., church. He readily accepted, for it meant full expenses for the visit to the son's school. On second thought the lyceum managers decided that the country lawyer out of the west wouldn't draw sufficiently in the large city of the east to make the venture a safe one for them. A political club in New York City took over the contract.

The speech was staged at Cooper Union. It attracted national attention and proved to be a great political and historical event. It caused the country lawyer to be asked to speak at other places on the way to and from the school in New Hampshire where he visited his son. And thus crystallized a movement which carried the country lawyer to the white house to serve as president during the most critical era in the country's history.

The lawyer was Abraham Lincoln. The son, Robert Todd Lincoln, still lives. Some say he is the last survivor in the male line of the family from which Abraham Lincoln sprung. He and his two daughters and three granddaughters are the only living descendants of the great emancipator. Of all the cases of son and great this is probably the most singular.

In Washington where he now lives, Robert Todd Lincoln now approaching his 80th year, is seen frequently driving through the parks or poring over old manuscripts and rare books in the library of congress. But he is rarely recognized. It is doubtful if more than a hundred residents of Washington know him by sight. His name rarely appears in the newspapers, never in connection with public or social activities. The old George town mansion, where he and his family make their home, is one of the most picturesque in the national capital; it was built in the eighteenth century by a wealthy Scotch shipmaster. The Lincolns live in dignified elegance. But a society editress of long experience in Washington was unable to supply the names of the daughters and granddaughters. Another did not even recall that the Lincolns now make Washington their home.

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Andie 26 Lincoln's Silent Son. 1932
From Leslie's Weekly

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Aug 21 1923

LINCOLN'S ONLY SURVIVING SON REACHES 80

Robert T. Lincoln, only surviving son of the martyred President, yesterday reached the age of four score. He is the only one of Lincoln's three children to reach maturity. The second son died while a child in the White House and the youngest, "Tad," the father's favorite, died on reaching manhood.

Robert T. Lincoln was born in the family home in Springfield, Illinois, and was educated at Harvard. He adopted the law as a profession and for some years engaged in active practice. He held the war portfolio under Presidents Garfield and Arthur and served as Minister to the Court of St. James during the administration of President Harrison. In later years he held the presidency of the Pullman company.

Though now living in quiet retirement in Washington, he still retains a more or less active interest in several large financial and other corporations having their headquarters in Chicago, his former home.

LINCOLN'S SON



ROBERT T. LINCOLN.

LLOYD GEORGE AND LINCOLN'S SON HOLD CHAT

Meeting occurs in Vermont
hills; two talk of civil
war days. 1913

Burlington, Vt., Oct. 6 (Special).—Today, while en route for Canada on his special train the former premier of Great Britain was afforded an opportunity to meet Robert T. Lincoln, son of the Great Emancipator.

The meeting occurred after the Lloyd George special had pulled into Manchester, Vt. Mr. Lloyd George, expecting him, stepped briskly from his car. Their hands met in a friendly handclasp and for fully four minutes while the train was waiting the two stood there, the animated center of a small group of interested onlookers, swapping experiences, most of which appeared to be grave.

Like Lloyd George, who has borne the brunt of the heavy burdens imposed by a great war, Lincoln had lived through five years of similar tragedy and overwhelming anxieties. The former premier of Great Britain asked his visitor what he remembered of the Civil war.

"It is not much, except that I saw my father grow older and sadder as the struggle went on," he said. "I was little more than a boy and at the time was at school." The shooting of Lincoln came up in the course of the conversation. Mr. Lincoln told the statesman that when first informed that his father had been shot, he was told the bullet had lodged in his father's arm, and that at the time he had lightly remarked "Oh, father will get over that all right."

The British visitor stood bareheaded on the station platform while he talked with Mr. Lincoln who wore a heavy overcoat and was muffled up to his chin to protect him from the chill autumn air in the mountains. It was learned afterward that he had been warned by his physicians against exposing himself, but had insisted upon coming. Shortly before the start was made Dame Margaret Lloyd George and Miss Megan, the former premier's daughter, emerged and joined him. Both were presented to Mr. Lincoln.

"This is Abraham Lincoln's son," said Lloyd George simply. "You know how I worship his father."

RE

MEMORY OF LINCOLN IS HONORED AT WASHINGTON

Son of Emancipator Remains
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Wall Street Register 2-12-1925
WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—

(By International News)—Although there was no official holiday and the government, including congress, functioned as usual, Washington found time today to observe Abraham Lincoln's birthday anniversary.

Son at Home.

The capital's recollection of Lincoln centers about his occupancy of the white house in the days before and during the civil war, for it was here that he rose to his greatness and accomplished the tasks which gave him his place in history.

In a silent, old house in Georgetown, Robert Todd Lincoln, only living son of the emancipator, observed his father's birthday quietly and alone, declining all invitations to public functions and formal anniversary ceremonies. His 82 years bear heavily upon him.

Ceremonies were held at the Willard hotel, where the tall, gaunt ex-congressman from Illinois stopped before he took the oath of office for the first time, and at the Lincoln memorial in Potomac where the great Lincoln statue looks out calmly and gravely to the shining dome of the capitol a mile and a half away.

Hold Luncheon.

The Willard observance was a luncheon under the auspices of the Lincoln memorial university of Harrogate, Tenn., which was founded in accordance with Lincoln's wish that educational facilities be provided for the mountain people of Tennessee, Kentucky and West Virginia.

Addresses in eulogy of Lincoln were delivered by Secretary of War Weeks, Secretary of the Navy Wilbur, Secretary of the Interior Work, former Gov. Frank O. Lowden of Illinois; Judge E. H. Gary, John Kirby and John Wesley Hill of New York. The speeches were broadcast through radio station WRC.

Later in the day, services largely attended were held at the Lincoln memorial under the auspices of the Sons of Veterans of Maryland and the District of Columbia.

There will be another program to-night under the direction of the republican state clubs, the league of republican women and the republican state clubs, the league of republican women and the republican state voters' association.

During the day there was a steady stream of visitors at the little brick house in Tenth street where Lincoln died after he was wounded in Ford's theatre just across the street. The house is now a museum, containing objects associated with Lincoln's life in Washington. The theatre has lately been used as an army recruiting station, but now is closed.

Son of Lincoln, 82, Leads Active Life

ALBANY, Friday (U. P.)—A son of Abraham Lincoln, in the person of Robert Todd Lincoln, eighty-two years old, lives each summer on the New York-Vermont border line.

Although twenty-six years older than the late President was at the time of the latter's assassination, Robert Todd Lincoln is very active, annually renewing acquaintances of past years and generally exuding vigor. During the rigors of Northern winters Mr. Lincoln resides in the national capital.

Born in Springfield, Ill., Mr. Lincoln received his early education in the schools of that city, later going to Phillips Academy, Exeter, N. H., thence to Harvard University, where he was graduated in 1864. While taking a short law course there he joined the Union Army and was volunteer aid to General Grant. After the war he went to Chicago and resumed the study of law, being admitted to the bar. He served as Secretary of War under President Garfield, and Minister to England under President Harrison.

LINCOLN'S SON FAILS IN HEALTH

Passes Time in Strict Seculsion,
as Doctors Order—Now in

Eighty-Second Year. *2/2/25*

By the United Press.

WASHINGTON, Thursday. — Abraham Lincoln's son—Robert Todd Lincoln—now in his eighty-second year, is failing in health.

The doors of the quaint old Colonial house here, where he lives with his wife and a staff of servants, are closed to all except his most intimate friends, and behind them he passes his declining years in the strict seclusion prescribed by his physicians.

Lincoln's major activity is corresponding with historians and publicists, who write him to inquire of details of his father's life. In this he is keenly painstaking and has the aid of one of the most complete collections of books and documents on Abraham Lincoln in the world.

Modest About Career.

The bearded, elderly man, the last living link with the Great Emancipator, is modest about his heritage and his own career, which included a Cabinet post, four years as Minister to England and high places in the business world.

His mind is still alert and, though not actively in business since his retirement in 1916, he still remains a member of the board of the Pullman Company and of Chicago banks.

He reads widely—daily papers, magazines and books, the latter chiefly history, biography and memoirs. He is especially interested in English papers and books, which remind him of his days there as a diplomat. He shakes his head over the changes that have come over England since his and his friend Gladstone's day.

Lincoln has never written a history of his father, and probably never will. His reason is that he collaborated with Nicolai and John Hay, who were Abraham Lincoln's secretaries in the White House, and told them all he thinks ought to be published. He ranks Nicolai and Hay above everything else written of his father, though he has helped many others and admires some of their work.

Before he injured a leg he was an ardent golf player. Astronomy now monopolizes his spare time as his hobby.

This absorbing avocation has made him very particular on the subject of time. For years he has had all the clocks in his home set daily by United States Naval Observatory time.

Lincoln's last public appearance was at the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial in 1922.

W.P.

LINCOLN'S SON IS IN 82D YEAR

Lives in Strict Seclusion, His
Health Failing.

HIS MIND STILL VERY ACTIVE

Passes Much of His Time in
Answering Correspondence.

11/11 Sun 2/12/34
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SON OF LINCOLN NEAR LIFE'S END

Robert, 82, Spends Time at Astronomy and Reading.

Robert Todd Lincoln, son of Abraham Lincoln and the only direct link between the great emancipator and the present generation, has lived in strictest seclusion for years. On the anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birthday today the United Press obtained a "close up" of this interesting man.

(By United Press.) 1915

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SON OF LINCOLN IN ILL HEALTH; STUDYING SKIES

**Bearded old Man Last Living Link
of Great Emancipator**

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1925-

The Last Living Link In Abraham Lincoln Family

— 1925 —

JAMES A. MORAN.

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Few Know Lincoln's Son Alive; Retired Lawyer in Washington

Few persons know a son of Abraham Lincoln, the martyred president, is alive today. He is Robert Todd Lincoln, a resident of Washington, D. C.

He is now 82 years old, 26 years older than his father at the time of his assassination by John Wilkes Booth in Ford's theatre, April 14, 1865.

Robert was born at the Globe hotel in 1843 in Springfield, Ill., and spent his boyhood in that city. At 7 he attended a private academy and two years later entered the preparatory department of the state university and remained there for six years. He then attended Phillips academy at Exeter, N. H., for a year and from there went to Harvard, from which he was graduated in 1864. He subsequently took a short course in the Harvard law school.

After quitting the law school he entered the Union army. He was commissioned a captain and received an appointment as volunteer aid on the staff of Gen. Grant. He participated in the final campaign which ended at Appomattox. He resigned from the army July 10, 1865.

Named to Cabinet

The death of his father was a great blow to him. He went to Chicago and resumed the study of law. In 1867 he was admitted to the bar of Illinois and formed a law partnership under the name of Scammon & Lincoln. The autumn and winter of 1872 were devoted to European travel. Upon his return he formed a partnership with Edward D. Isham of Chicago, the firm name being Isham & Lincoln.

The first political position held by Lincoln was that of supervisor in South Chicago, to which place he was elected in 1876. He held it for a year.

Lincoln was one of the active participants at the state convention held to select delegates to the Republican national convention, which was held at Chicago June 2, 1880. He was selected as one of the presidential electors from that state. He strongly approved the nomination of James A. Garfield and was a potent factor in the ensuing campaign.

Lincoln had never manifested any desire for political preferment. He was quite content to practice law. The big surprise of his life occurred when he received a letter from President-elect Garfield informing him of his intention to name his secretary of war.

Mentioned for President

In 1888 the name of Lincoln was frequently mentioned as a presidential possibility. He refused to permit his name to be presented at the convention. At the close of the Arthur administration he returned to Chicago to resume his law practice.

When Benjamin Harrison succeeded Grover Cleveland as president, he sent the name of Robert T. Lincoln to the senate as his choice for minister to England. He had not even intimated his intention to Lincoln. The first knowledge that Lincoln had of the appointment was the story in the morning paper which he read at breakfast. He thanked President Harrison for the honor, but re-



NEW PHOTO OF
ROBERT LINCOLN

fused to accept the post. However, upon the insistence of the president and Secretary of State Blaine, he reconsidered and accepted.

Returning to Chicago, he once more became a leading figure in the legal profession. After the death of George M. Pullman, in 1897, Lincoln was made president of the Pullman company. He held this place until 1911, when he became chairman of the board of directors. In 1913 he retired from business activities and moved back to Washington, the scene of his early life. The library of congress is about the only place in Washington that Lincoln now visits. He has a summer home at Manchester, Vt.

The line of the Lincoln family, as many people seem to think, will not end with Robert T. Lincoln. Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln have had three children, two daughters and a son. Mary, the eldest, was born Oct. 15, 1869.

The second child of Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln was born in 1873 and died in London in 1890.

The third child, Jessie, was born in 1875.

LINCOLN IN POOR HEALTH

ROBERT TODD LINCOLN LAST
OF THE LINE.

Spends Declining Years Corresponding With Historians and Publishers on Details of Father's Life.

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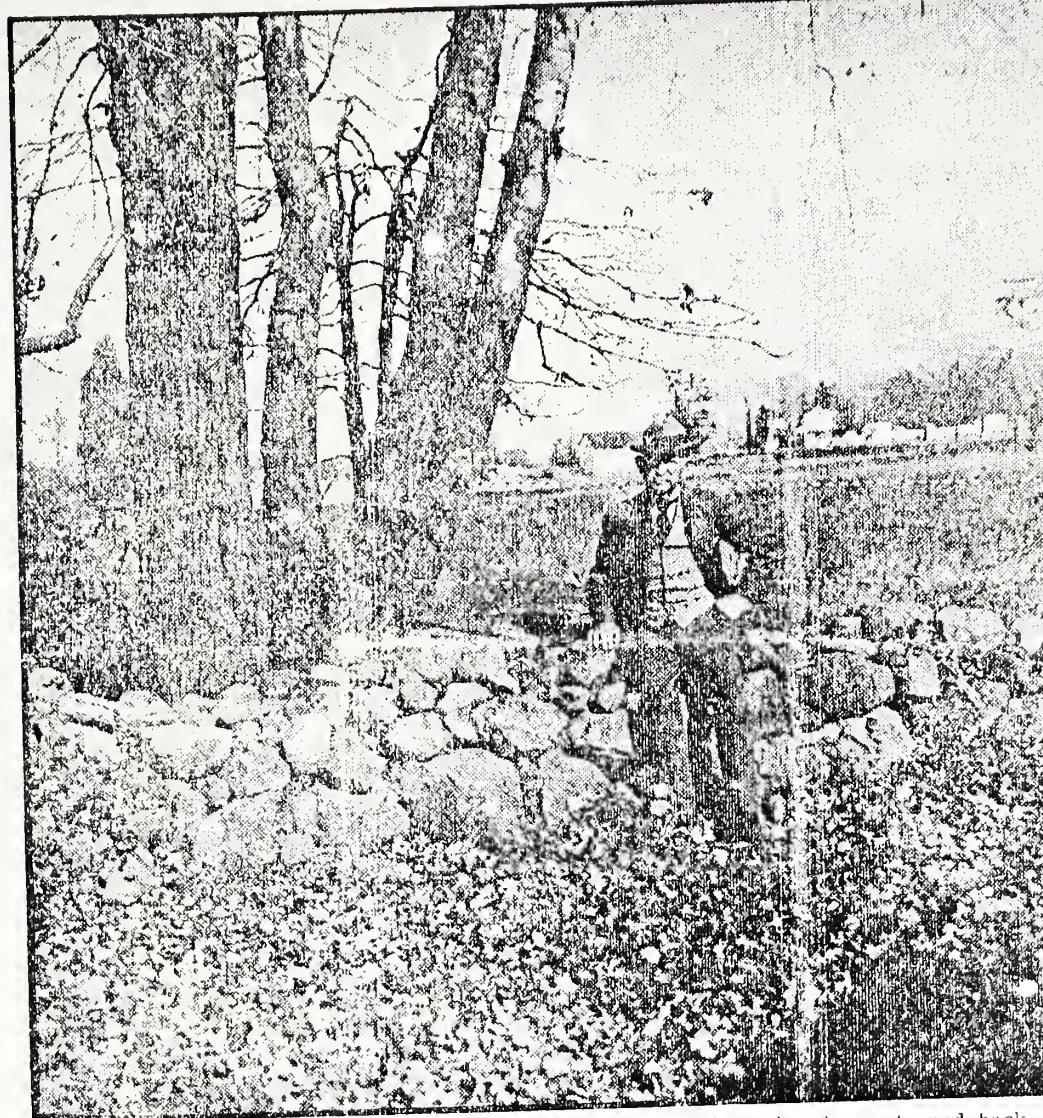
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MARKS CREST OF CIVIL WAR



"The Bloody Angle" on the Little field of Gettysburg, where the Union forces turned back General Pickett's charge. This battle marked the crest of the Civil War, and the beginning of the realization of the hopes of Abraham Lincoln, whose birthday we celebrate Thursday.—P. & A.

Illustrious Lincoln Name Soon to Pass with Death Of Venerable Son, Robert

The last living link between Abraham Lincoln and the present generation, a feeble man of 83, living in seclusion in Washington, D. C., is Robert Todd Lincoln, son of the Great Emancipator whose 117th birthday anniversary is this week.

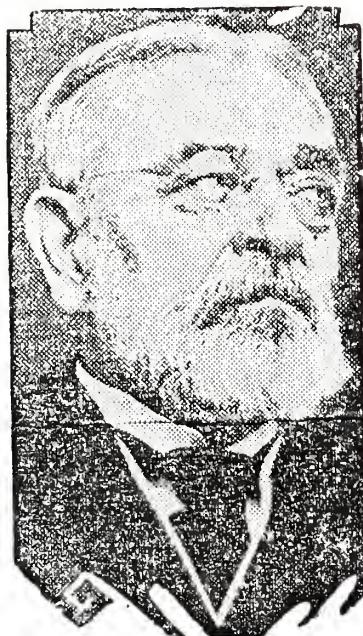
Throughout his life Robert T. Lincoln has been a quiet, unassuming man, avoiding publicity whenever possible because any suggestion of reflecting the glory of his father is repugnant to him. Still he has made his mark in public and business life, having been a member of

for president but refused to let his name be presented. He was mentioned as a possible candidate again both in 1888 and 1892.

When Benjamin Harrison became president in 1889 he appointed Lincoln ambassador to England. Returning from London he resumed his law practice in Chicago and on the death of George M. Pullman in 1897 was made president of the Pullman company. He retired from his business activities in 1913 and moved back to Washington, where he has lived since in seclusion in a quaint, old Colonial house with his wife, who was Mary Harlan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Harlan of Iowa.

There were two daughters and a son in the family of Robert Lincoln. Unfortunately the son died at the age of 17 and with him passed the hope that the name of Lincoln might be perpetuated in direct line from the great emancipator.

In late years the time and energy of Robert Lincoln has been placed at the disposal of historians and biographers seeking information about the life of his illustrious father.



ROBERT T. LINCOLN

the cabinet, serving as ambassador to Great Britain and being urged as a candidate for President before several national Republican conventions. But not one of these honors was of his own seeking.

Because Abraham Lincoln had almost no schooling he insisted on every educational advantage for his son. As a boy Robert Lincoln attended a private academy at Springfield, Ill., then for a time was in the preparatory school of the state university. Later he finished a course at Phillips Exeter Academy and then enrolled in the Harvard Law School. Graduating from Harvard in 1864 he enlisted as a volunteer in the army and became an aide on the staff of General Grant.

The tragic death of Abraham Lincoln was a great shock to the son, so much so that he left Washington, the scene of so much grief and unhappiness. He began the practice of law in Chicago and was admitted to the Illinois bar in 1867. His election as supervisor of South Chicago in 1876 brought him into politics and he came into nationwide prominence for putting a ring of plundering politicians out of business.

President Garfield selected Lincoln as his secretary of war and after Garfield's assassination he was asked to remain in the cabinet, the only member retained by President Arthur. In 1884 he was strongly urged to become a candidate for the Republican nomination

Lincoln's Son Lives In Capital

By Charles P. Stewart

NEA Service Writer

WASHINGTON—Today, the anniversary of President Lincoln's birth, finds his son, Robert T. Lincoln, living in seclusion in Washington.

Despite his avoidance of the lime-light, he does have a small circle of intimates and among them, when he feels like it, he can make himself very entertaining.

Here's a story they quote him for:

During Civil War days it wasn't possible for President Lincoln to leave the capital for long.

For instance, he couldn't get away in summer, as Presidents do now. His presence was liable to be urgently required at any minute. Travel wasn't so rapid and communication wasn't so good as today. He simply had to be within call.

Yet, occasionally, he felt the need of a breath of fresh country air.

So he fell into the habit of spending a summer night now and then at the Soldiers' Home, driving out from the city with a horse and buggy, usually with his then little son, Robert, along as company, but otherwise unattended.



Robert T. Lincoln

He wasn't a very presidential figure on these trips.

His face, as everybody knows, was extremely plain. Neither was it known as present-day presidents' faces are, photography being at an early stage of development in the 60's. He lost the effect of height as soon as he sat down, for a great deal of his stature ran to legs. And he wasn't at all particular about his clothes.

He looked far more like a rather shabby, old-fashioned farmer than a president.

One day, as he and Robert were jogging along on their way to the Soldiers' Home, they met a regiment of troops on the march. The President was well posted on troop movements in the vicinity of Washington, but he couldn't account for this regiment.

Pulling up, as the colonel pranced past on his horse, he asked, "What is this, anyway?"

The colonel gave him a scornful glance.

"Can't you see it's a regiment of soldiers, you old fool?" he rejoined and pranced away.

ROBERT T. LINCOLN.

He Has Never Traded on His Famous Father's Name.

Lincoln's birthday passed with very little mention of Lincoln's son, Robert T. Lincoln, who is spending the closing years of a long and a busy life in Washington. The public knows in a general way that he is a man of exceptional gifts for he made much more than an ordinary success in business, was a good Secretary of War in the Garfield Cabinet and filled the post of Minister to the court of St. James with dignity and credit.

But even in the days when he was active in the public service, he was conspicuous for his retiring habits. It was a common remark when he was in the Cabinet that Lincoln must be a good Secretary of War because nobody ever heard anything about him or his department.

After his return from England, he seemed to sink out of sight so far as the country was concerned. He became head of one of the largest corporations in the country without getting into the papers often enough to keep the country reminded that Abraham Lincoln had a son, and to this day, he has preserved the same privacy. The other day a reporter got near enough to him to try for an interview. The substance of the interview was that Mr. Lincoln desired to spend his remaining days in peace and did not believe that he had anything to say which the people would care to hear.

Mr. Lincoln has never taken the public into his confidence on the subject, but it is not an unlikely guess that his self-effacement springs from a feeling that the name of Lincoln came to him in trust to be preserved as his immortal father left it, without change or addition by any other man.—[Detroit Free Press, Aug. 16, 1926, 5-1-21]

Unlike His "Fathah"

For more than half a century a certain quaint old negro, John H. Plummer by name, worked for the late Robert T. Lincoln, as caretaker in the latter's big house in the Georgetown district of Washington.

"An' at the end of that time," he adds, "I was no bettah acquainted with him than the day he hiahed me."

"A mos' extrawd-nary gen'l'man," reminisced the old servant.

"Nobody could get nex' to him. Seemed like he wns always a-sayin' to hisself, 'No use me tryin' to be anybody 'cause all I can possibly evah be is jus' the son of muh fathah.' So he jus' shrunk into hisself and the oldah he got, the mo' he got that way."

"I've hev'd he was a right sma't man, but you nevah could tell it by talkin' to him, fo' he aimos' nevah said anything 'ceptin' what he couldn't get out o' sayin' an' then he said it the sho'test way possible."

He spent mos' ali his time readin'. He nevah had no company. He nevah accepted no invitations. He nevah puttahed around in the ga'den. He sca'cely evah went walkin'. The only time he got out was sometimes fo' a little automobile ride an' he didn't do that ve'y often.

"They called him a huhmit. If evah theah was one, he was it."

"He was poo'ly the las' yeah he lived, but it didn't make him no mo' of a huhmit than he was before, 'cause nothin' could. He was a huhmit evah since he settled down to live in Gawge-town regulah."

"Mista Lincoln wasn' a bit like his fathaw. I use to see him when I was a youngstah. He was mighty tall an' mighty thin an' they say he was talkative. Mista Robe't was short and chunky an' I nevah hea'd him uttah a wo'd he could get out of."

The Georgetown house is closed now, but Plummer is still in charge of the premises, pending settlement of the estate. When that has been attended to, he, too, intends to retire, to his old home at Rosslyn, Virginia.

Q. Who owns the old Lincoln home in Springfield, Ill.? F. A.

A. It is the property of the state of Illinois. It was presented to the state by Robert Todd Lincoln.

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